

## THE EVENING FARMER

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C. A. MENET, Representative.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1909.

## MACHINE VS. HILL

That a State machine, holding secret sessions and promising nominations and having held power to fulfill its promises until last year, has existed for some years, has been asserted and denied many times.

That it does exist and is still endeavoring to fulfill promises made in advance of conventions, caucuses, etc., is now quite generally admitted; were such not the facts, the nomination of Mr. Hill for Senator would be a certainty, in response to public sentiment. The machine is now, through its county, city and town tools—as, for instance, Sheriff Hawley—the only obstacle in the Hill way. Without its aid, the Branderage candidacy would be a negligible quantity.

The wonder is that the Republican party has for so long submitted to the autocratic rule of the machine. Last year, there came the first revolt. It was effective in the cases of Tilson for Congressman-at-large, Rogers for Secretary of State and one or two others, but ineffective against Lilley for Governor because, in the greater part, of the corporation connections of his Democratic competitor. Another revolt, against the machine's choice for U. S. Senator, Branderage, is now in progress. It is based not only upon Mr. Hill's superior standing and record, but also upon a growing disapproval of machine rule which usurps popular rights, makes conventions and caucuses automata, and mocks at the people. Its motto might well be that Vanderbilite one, "The public be damned."

The machine learned naught from its reverses in 1908, though they might be considered the handwriting upon the wall. Yet those reverses proved that the Republican rank and file can do it if they make an earnest and united effort. The opportunity comes at the Republican caucus for the nomination of Senator. Its already somewhat impaired vitality could not withstand the most heroic treatment would preserve it from dissolution. That it should expire is clearly proven by its present antagonism to the heavily preponderant sentiment in its party.

Are the Republican rank and file awake to the opportunity within their reach? Nomination of their choice for Senator, and a death blow to the machine, are at their hands, the latter as inevitable consequence of the former.

## THE QUESTION OF UNCONSTITUTIONALITY.

If a layman may correctly sense the real meaning of the rather complicated decision of the "Election court" in the Lilley case, it is based upon the constitutional provision of the right of jury trial, and upon an alleged infraction thereof, the argument being that it would be practically a criminal case, with the penalty of ineligibility to either elective or appointive office for four years. If the assumption that the act provides such penalty is well founded, the decision of unconstitutionality would necessarily follow.

From the commencement of the case the Farmer has steadily asserted that the penalty cited does not apply to candidates "the votes for whom are to be counted by the State Treasurer, Secretary of the State and Comptroller," among them being candidates for Governor, but does apply "to any other office." This view is sustained by the provision that "the trial judges shall have no power to declare any such election (of Governor) to be void"; it is reasonable to assume that after providing for non-voting, the act should go on to attach the penalty of ineligibility—that is, to permit declaration of the election of an ineligible candidate for Governor, and to seat in the gubernatorial chair, with power of numerous appointments, one who is practically a convicted criminal and ineligible to elective or appointive office for four years? The layman, this seems grotesquely absurd.

The provision of ineligibility in the act is found in the sentence following one relating to decision "to be filed with the Governor"—that is, as to other officers than the Governorship—and it clearly applies only to such offices. If, in these cases, the election court find the accused "guilty of corrupt practices," the act provides that "such election shall be void"—a procedure from which the Election court is barred in the case of a gubernatorial candidate, which fact confirms the opinion that these provisions of the act apply only to minor offices.

This is further confirmed by the succeeding provision that if any candidate shall have been "so" found guilty, he shall be ineligible, etc. Use of the

word quoted makes this provision applicable only to the minor offices covered by the voiding provision, and it does not, therefore, apply to candidates for Governor.

If this reasoning be sound, it cuts the ground from under the judicial decision of unconstitutionality as based upon an alleged infraction of the right of trial by jury.

As the case now goes to the Supreme court for final decision, it is perhaps idle to speculate upon its several phases; we raise the point discussed merely because of our previously expressed opinion.

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## STRATFORD

A Remarkable Parish—Father O'Connors  
Brilliant Work—Growth of Building  
Fund—Red Men's Excursion—Odd  
Fellows—Local Personalities.

The financial account of the parish of St. James' for the year 1908, as read in the church last Sunday, was a most agreeable surprise to the members of that church, who had no idea that so much money had been collected since Father O'Connor took charge of the parish, or that the expenses had been so small and the surplus for the building fund was so large. Notwithstanding the liberal contributions which have been made by the Catholic population of this town for their own church purposes, they contributed the sum of \$25.50 last Sunday for the relief fund for the sufferers by the Italian earthquake. A detailed account of the financial record shows how generously Father O'Connor's people have responded to every call for the benefit of the church. When he arrived in town on the 13th of March, 1908, as the successor of Father J. J. Elty, there were but \$23.49 in the treasury of the church. This is no reflection upon Father Elty, as he had raised some \$3,000 which had been used to pay for the lot upon which the new church is to be built, and had at the same time liquidated the running expenses of the church. During the nine and one-half months Father O'Connor has been the priest at St. James' the following moneys have been received: from pew rents, \$485.25; from seat money, which means the price paid at the door by those who do not rent pews, \$365.75; the offertory amounted to \$437.87; the annual collection was \$656.56; the entertainments, whists, food sales, etc., netted \$768.00; there was a donation from a member of the parish amounting to \$2,000; the fair held last fall yielded \$325.00; the Guild has collected \$151.85; there has been a gift of \$5, and the diocesan collections amounted to \$67.00. All these sums make a grand total of \$6,100.91. This is more money than was ever before received during any single year in the history of the parish. And it is not all due to Father O'Connor; the more of his people are going to church than heretofore. Considering that the parish numbers but about 600 people, this record, as detailed above, is simply remarkable. One of the leading Protestant clergymen in town said he would not have believed it if the facts had not come from Father O'Connor himself. The expenses of the church for the year have been \$1,908.92. This leaves a balance on hand January 1 of \$4,466.99. Two thousand dollars of this sum is in the Farmers and Mechanics' bank of Bridgeport, and \$2,200 is in the People's Savings bank of Bridgeport, while the small balance of \$266.99 is in the Connecticut National bank, for current expenses. All these facts and figures show how well beloved Father O'Connor is, and how much new life he has infused into the parish. He is as popular with his non-Catholic friends as with his own parishioners, and the town may consider itself fortunate in having him for one of its public spirited citizens and as a member of the clergy.

Tonight a party of Red Men will leave for a fraternal visit to New Haven, where there is to be a public installation of chiefs. The gentlemen going are L. E. Peck, Geo. W. Spall, Geo. A. Fairchild, H. B. Barnum, H. W. Doolittle, George and William Fryer, W. A. Strickland, William Appleby, and possibly one or two others.

Dr. Elliott Cogswell returned to Boston yesterday to resume his medical studies. It should not be forgotten that the third annual dance of the Okenuck tribe of Red Men will occur tomorrow evening at the Town hall. This is really the first large ball of the new year and will doubtless draw a large crowd, since there are some 200 gentlemen who belong to the order.

There will be meetings this week of the various Embroidery clubs and of the Afternoon Whist club. Miss Amy Gaines has sold to Mr. Charles W. Blakeslee four acres of land upon the Housatonic river. The property is said to be very valuable. Miss Gaines makes her home with the Blakeslees.

Mr. William Newbury is recovering from an attack of pneumonia. Every day now loads of iron work can be seen being sold down East Broadway, to be used in the construction of the foot path along the side of the Washington bridge. When completed this will be a great convenience to the public.

Recent visitors to New York include Herbert W. Doolittle and Dr. Lemuel Beardsley. Dr. H. M. Clapp has recently been ill. A chorus of 25 voices took part in the Methodist Sunday school concert Sunday evening. Miss Rhoda King was at the piano and Miss H. Louise Fairchild at the organ. Many pretty selections were sung by the little boys and girls. Rev. J. W. Eggleston was present and made a pleasant address. Miss Vivian Marie Conine has returned from her trip to Cromwell.

The Odd Fellows have elected the following gentlemen for the various official positions of their lodge: Messrs. W. C. Bartlett, W. W. Hubbell, Chas. G. Honan, E. H. Pitzer, James A. Mallett, H. A. Hoadley, R. N. Morehouse, H. N. Hunt, G. F. Quire, G. C. Mansis, David H. and W. E. Middlebrook, John Moon, William Beard, Frederick Wilcoxson, Charles Mills, and J. H. Thompson.

The week of prayer is to be observed at the Methodist church Wednesday and Friday evenings. The family of Rev. Mr. Eggleston has returned to town from a holiday visit to relatives in New York. All the school teachers having returned to town the schools opened on this morning, and all the honor roll pupils were present.

This afternoon the Bridge Club went over to Bridgeport, to hold a meeting at the residence of Mrs. F. O. Rhoades, Golden Hill. This afternoon one of the many Embroidery clubs met with Mrs. Paul A. Carey, on Sutton avenue. Last night Mrs. Harry Wilcoxson had one of the Embroidery clubs at her house. Elliott W. Peck, Miss Dorothy Peck and Miss Carrie L. Peck have been visiting in New Haven, recently. Tomorrow evening the officers of the Evening Star Rebekah lodge will be installed.

Recent guests in town include Mrs. Susan Paddock, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Curtis of New Haven, Irving W. Clark, Mrs. Seeger of Ansonia, and others.

REVENUE OF 99thmesthr  
The quarterly report of City Court Clerk George R. Barnes ending December 1 has been filed. It shows \$34 arrests during the quarter of which 318 were sent to jail, 45 appealed, \$5 released on suspended judgment, 35 bound over and 25 probated. The cash receipts for the quarter were \$2,671.12. For the same quarter last year the receipts were \$4,086.85 with only 798 arrests. The falling off in receipts is noticeable. The 334 arrests this year only produced a revenue of \$2,671.12, while 798 arrests last year added \$4,086.85 to the city treasury. The receipts from costs were \$716.33 for the same quarter last year, and only \$360.44 this year. Fines have dropped from \$1,019 to \$850. With 790 arrests during the quarter ending Sept. 1, 1908, the receipts were \$3,325.46.

## NEWTOWN.

The young ladies of Sandy Hook are arranging for a whist to be given Saturday evening, Jan. 9, at Foresters' hall, Sandy Hook.

Robert Egan of New York, has been the guest of his grandmother, Mrs. Andrew Egan, Palestine. The condition of Miss Rose Brew of Hawleyville, who has been critically ill, is reported more favorable. On account of delay in necessary repairs at the High school building the opening of school was delayed until today. Principal Curtis E. Cook returned Friday from his vacation spent at his home in Harrisburg, Pa. Miss Minnie Butler, teacher of languages, returned from Worcester, Mass., Monday. Miss Lulu Roberts, teacher of science and mathematics, has also returned with her mother.

All the public schools were opened Monday. Harley T. Peck left today to resume his studies at Yale, having enjoyed the vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Peck. Mr. and Mrs. Willis Carter of Bethel, were Sunday guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Lovell, New Street. Mrs. John R. Peck has returned from a visit with Stamford friends. Miss Ethel Peck will not return to Syracuse University on account of ill health, and is at present enjoying a few weeks at Stamford. The ladies of Eagle Rock Circle, Companions of the Forest, held their quarterly meeting and annual supper at the Foresters' hall, Sandy Hook, Saturday evening. Members and their friends to the number of 80 were present. A very fine supper was served.

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